



## *The Old Ironsides Report*

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# DISCOM meets local community leaders

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CAMP DOGWOOD, Iraq – The road is long and the air is a typical Arabian dry – flushing their bodies of water as fast as they can take it in – but the soldiers press on for a meeting with a local sheik; the well-being of more than a million people depends on the results of this meeting.

The soldiers, members of the 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion, an Army Reserve unit from Greensboro, N.C., attached to 1st Armored Division, work to rebuild trust and harmony with local sheiks – men in governing positions over tribes.

Though a sheik is only a time-honored position of respect, giving them no actual legal power over those they lead, most tribe members abide by their sheik's decisions.

That is why it is important for the 422nd and 1AD to meet with and show these sheiks that American forces are trying to help rebuild Iraq.

"There are a lot of people out there trying to convince the public that we're worse than Saddam," said Maj. Brent Perley, a CA team leader with the 422nd. "If we didn't make an effort to come out and meet with (the sheiks,) they (the Iraqi people) would believe whatever they heard on the streets."

During the visits with community leaders, the soldiers identify the needs of the people. Some of the needs include medical clinics, schools, water and electricity supplies and security.

The team has built a very strong relationship with the sheik Abbas, who leads approximately 1.5 million people in the Janabi tribe.

Back at Abbas' house, money exchanges hands for the rebuilding of a school and medical clinic – a couple of projects among many that Col. Kenneth Dowd, commander of 1AD Division Support Command, initiated with funds under his control.

The money is passed off to Abbas because, in addition to being the sheik, he is also a contractor.

"Abbas wants to see his people taken care of," Perley said. "He is the kind of guy that if a bid come out to \$7,000 and we only have five to fund the project, then the bid will be \$5,000."

"If (Iraqis) know we're here to help," Dowd said, "hopefully they won't bring harm to the soldiers."



Col. Kenneth Dowd, 1st Armored Division Support Command commander, shakes hands with an Iraqi man prior to leaving a sheik's house near Camp Dogwood, Iraq. Dowd and members of the 422 Civil Affairs Battalion, regularly meet with nearby civilian leaders to discuss problems and find solutions together.



The sign reads: 'No Dumping of Trash Allowed'

Trash – especially food waste – should be put into the proper receptacle, burn pit or trash point. Besides poor appearance, refuse poses serious health risks. Food wrappers, empty soda cans, and MRE bags can attract disease carrying insects and rodents.



## NEWS

### **Putin Cancels Trip After Suicide Bombings**

MOSCOW (AP) - President Vladimir Putin canceled a planned trip abroad Sunday because of suicide bomber attacks on a Moscow rock festival that killed 15 people, the Kremlin said, as police promised to hike up security.

The Kremlin did not elaborate on Putin's reasons for stopping the trip to Uzbekistan and Malaysia. But the decision could reflect concern over security - amid fears the bombings mean a new wave of Chechen attacks in Moscow - and lingering sensitivity to previous criticisms that the Russian leader is cold and distant in times of public crisis.

### **Returning 3rd Infantry Troops Cheered**

FORT STEWART, Ga. (AP) - A total of 900 soldiers were arriving at this base over the Fourth of July weekend, the biggest homecoming yet for the Army's 3rd Infantry Division that led the charge to Baghdad.

But the majority of the 16,500 division troops sent to fight the war remains in Iraq serving as peacekeepers, rebuilding war-damaged cities and hunting down Iraqi fighters who remain loyal to Saddam Hussein.

### **New Wildfire Erupts in Arizona Forest**

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) - Crews battled a wildfire Sunday in a ponderosa pine forest in central Arizona where residents were urged to evacuate about 100 homes, while a 2 1/2-week-old mountaintop blaze in the southern part of the state destroyed six cabins.

The latest fire erupted late Saturday about eight miles south of Prescott near Walker, a community of cabins and houses in the Prescott National Forest.

### **Chaplain's thought for the day:**

In uplifting --- get underneath.  
--George Ade

A sand pile in the summer is deceiving. The topmost sand burns hot on our feet. But as we push down toward the center, we come to a damp, cool place that soothes and oozes between our toes.

The nature of most things is not revealed at the surface. Like the sand pile, many people and situations we encounter are, on the surface, downright uncomfortable. The reward is in digging deeper to the essential core or meaning. It takes time, a little knowledge and abundant trust that we will not be burned.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. Proverb 3:5

## SPORTS

### **Roger Federer Dominates Wimbledon Final**

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) - Roger Federer became the first Swiss man to earn a Grand Slam title Sunday, out-serving Mark Philippoussis to win 7-6 (5), 6-2, 7-6 (3) in the Wimbledon final.

Federer totaled 21 aces and never faced a break point, while Philippoussis had 14 aces - 13 below his tournament average - and a costly double fault in the pivotal first tiebreaker.

### **Armstrong Crashes in First Stage of Tour**

MEAUX, France (AP) -- Lance Armstrong survived a crash and completed the first full stage of the Tour de France on a teammate's bike Sunday, finishing in a pack behind Italy's Alessandro Petacchi.

Armstrong, trying for a record-tying fifth straight Tour title, was among the competitors who rode into the mass of riders and was thrown from their bikes in a crash entering Meaux.

The crash was caused by a rider who slipped in a turn. Other riders behind piled into the cyclist.

Armstrong completed the race on the bike of U.S. Postal teammate Jose Luis Rubiera. Armstrong held his hand to his back as he boarded the team bus after the race, but had no visible injuries.

### **Fuel stop gives rookie Biffle 1st victory**

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) -- Greg Biffle thought he was in trouble with former Winston Cup champion Bobby Labonte close behind as the laps wound down Saturday night.

But Labonte ran out of gas on the last lap as Biffle and his Roush Racing crew played the fuel strategy game to perfection in the Pepsi 400, giving the rookie his first Winston Cup victory.

### **Woods' third-round 65 features front-nine 30**

LEMONT, Ill. (AP) -- A squirrel making a mad dash across the sixth green darted at Tiger Woods' ball, sprinted away from it and then finally took a flying leap over it.

It's the closest anyone got to Woods all day. Woods shot a 7-under 65 Saturday in the 100th Western Open, setting the 54-hole tournament record at 18-under 198. That breaks by three strokes the mark set by Sam Snead in 1949, and matched by six others.

## TODAY'S WEATHER

High: 115F /46C  
Low: 84F/29C

